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Weymouth Dec 29th 1863

My dear Mary,

Your welcome letter dec 1st last week, just after I had sent off one to you, makes inquiries which I hasten to answer. And first ——

all is going on well here — more than well — for the best. I give you yesterday's news in proof: and as is one day so all the days run. All is rapidly advancing for the triumph of our cause & consequently for the victory of our country, the slavery being the root of the rebellion & the occasion of the war, the war cannot fail to turn in favour of those who are striking at that root. Let the world look on, giving moral support while observing political neutrality, & all will be well with the world too.

Yesterday's news. 1. Bills are pending in Congress, for re-union & emancipation, upon the Basis of the President's message — the basis of freedom immediate & forever slavery to be forever prohibited in the United States.

2. Black troops are being placed on an equality with white ones as to pay & positions in the service, as it was not so at first, the arrears are in case of Mass^tts troops being paid from the first.

4. Black men are

Hopeful progress

Garrison, as Chairman, must see the

Thanks

we can't stop suffrage

Ship's company

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being elected with white men as del-
egates to a Southern Union convention
for reunion on the President's terms.

4. The worst pro-slavery churches are
the centres of the most fractious anti-
slavery energy. E.S. Park Street — Where
the articles say that a black man shall
not own a pew applaud their Pastor
to the echo, & sustain him to the utmost
when, on his return from his regiment
(being Chaplain on leave of absence for
his people) he declares that "the Black man
is our very brother: dear & beloved as
an equal brother & fellow soldier & he
ought to be no less equal as a fellow-
citizen." The sound of weeping & clapping
of hands, in that week, meeting house
so long consecrated to cold solemn pre-
dece scalling itself piety. Humanity has
wailed. The rising generation Emancipated
by the war from slaveholding de-
nominations, have thousanded it.

5. The last formed union-leagues
spreading like wild fire over the land
are formed on the basis of immediate
Emancipation. These are but a
few of the signs of the times. Can you
wonder I am hopeful? — and yet I
do not think they are who despair.
For there is nothing says some eastern
Sage, so true, that it hinders the exact
route from being true also. It is
the story of the World — black on the
side to the hill — white on the side to the
valley. So when Billchanning says we
are as bad as ever, & Wendell Phillips
says the Peasant is no better than
he should be & the Message much too

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than it should be, & Abby Kelley says Shame on them that fight for such a government & Oliver Johnson says We must not just off our arrows, & May says we never were more needed, I do not find it necessary to controvert it though I could not accept it literally. It can do no harm, — and considered as the Quakers consider the utterance of a testimony at Yearly Meeting, it may do good.

You remind me of the time when, on the outbreak of the Rebellion before, I wrote you that I no longer asked for funds from England, & no longer desired to receive them; & ask me if I think so still. I do. I have said every year since 1835, when I first began to write Sup — in behalf of our cause "depend on me never to ask for money when in my judgement it ceases to be necessary." This bound me to a careful & conscientious observation — never intermitted. and I saw when we ceased to need money from England. — & I see that, except for the winding up of affairs, we need no money any longer. So, though I love the Am. Soc. as one loves an instrument that has been extremely

— May individuals unceasingly accept, & the members with whom I have so long wrought as co-workers & friends; & though I should prefer on the whole to let it silently die out, without being formally disbanded, letting the cherished memory of the Ed remain; I do not think it best to push a machine finding, after the time has come that the first is better formed at Social or State-hospices. I think my membership while I decline being one of the Ex. Com. I feel meanwhile, the joy just privilege of labours in the cause of freedom for all, while life lasts, more & more deeply; & all such labours flows together now & will do so, as the river having reached the ocean is lost in the wave.

Have we not a warning in the "British & foreign," of the mischief & continuing an institution, when its work is finished? — It cannot renew itself, & take hold of the new crisis. Your new societies can. I thank you for your name on the London Emeda Ladies Committee, to clear up misunderstandings, & pass safely out of this crisis (a World's Crisis,) with the credit & honour of an anti-slavery nation.

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I suppose the convictions of every member almost of the Am. Soc. would be moved, if they saw as I do, that Slavery is doomed. The tree is cut down, though it is a great green lusty thing in view, still. & we can cut it up & get it out of the way better than by lecturing about it now; — & yet lecturing is all we do, by the constitutional limitations of the Am. Soc. We could print books, to be sure. But what need, when the soul of the nation prints just what we should, — when every bookseller's shop is an A.S. depository & the standard made up of outside from other sources? — What Garrison & W. Phillips do, they do as individuals, & have done for years — not as agents or officers — Garrison in the Liberator & W. Phillips in the field of public life, politically: no Mass Convention will cohere less because the form of an A.S. Soc. ceases to exist.

All these considerations, slowly finding their way into our minds,

will make us all ready to
slide modestly out of sight as
technicals, the moment the word
is said by government which
describes the deed already done. We
are all too wise, I trust, to be busy
about like the young Lord after
the battle telling how things should
accomplished should be done, & "blam-
ing them that bear dead bodies by"
Have you seen Mrs Sam Ball's
notice of Col. Shaw? — Such as he
our sons, are doing their work
now. Garrison's son is in the
army. C. Follen helping raise
10th regiments. S. May's son is in
the Navy. & so of every family
in the U.S. Pity non-resistance
may have told irrepressibly on
mine, But he, the father of a
young family, is ready at any
moment to go. I never hinder,
though I cannot conscientiously
urge. I am at work for the
freedmen & for the health of the
army. So are all our friends.
This talk about raising money for
the San. Com. is moonshine; as they say
"one last best effort" — a superstitious
feeling — Sworn by the San. Com. till

I wrote not a word to Garrison &
it is [illegible] & Phillips now